

For Children from about 4 to 8 Years of Age

BOOSTER SEATS FOR AGES 4 to 8

Booster seats are for children about 4 to 8 years of age and 60 to 70 pounds. Always follow the weight recommendations and installation instructions provided by the booster seat manufacturer.

To Use a Booster Seat Correctly:

- Use a booster seat that is federally approved for use in a vehicle and conforms to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. An approved seat will have a label on it stating it is certified for use in motor vehicles.
- Not only do booster seats protect children, they make the adult seat belts fit better and more comfortably and allow children to see out the windows.
- If only a lap belt is available, a booster seat with a shield must be used.
- A belt-positioning booster without a shield is designed to be used with a lap and shoulder belt, and provides much greater upper restraint than a lap belt only.
- A high-back booster seat provides additional head support in vehicles with low seat backs.
- Booster seats with an internal harness should be securely anchored in the vehicle with the vehicle's safety belt. The seat should not move more than one inch from side to side, or back and forth.
- The safest place for all children is the back seat. The middle of the back seat is recommended if the booster seat will fit there because it is the farthest point from impact in a crash.
- Be sure to read the manufacturer's directions for the booster seat and also the vehicle owner's manual for installation tips.
- The seat must be destroyed and replaced if involved in a crash. Child car seats are designed to be used in only one crash.
- Never purchase or use a second-hand car seat if you are unsure of its history.



What is Michigan's Safety Belt Law?



- Children under the age of four must be restrained in a car safety seat in the front and rear seat.
- 4 - 16 years in a safety belt in the front and rear seat.
- 16 years and older in a safety belt in the front seat. A safety belt is recommended, but not required in the rear seat.

What is the Next Step?



A lap and shoulder belt. Keep your child in a safety seat for as long as possible. When your child exceeds the height and weight limit for the booster seat, move him or her to a lap and shoulder belt. The shoulder belt should cross the shoulder, not the throat or face. The lap belt should fit low and snug across the top of the thighs, not up on the stomach.

*For more information,
please contact the
Office of Highway Safety Planning
at 517/333-5318
or the National Highway
Traffic Safety Administration's
Auto Safety Hotline at
1-800-424-9393.*